

## Preface

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## Preface

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As co-presidents of the Memory Studies Association, we are very pleased to present this first collaborative issue between the Memory Studies Association (MSA) and *Memory Studies*. There are a number of things that new and growing scholarly fields such as ours need to advance their missions and to integrate their members, and an excellent journal is certainly at the top of the list. Upon incorporation of the Memory Studies Association, therefore, we were delighted with the unique arrangement that the journal's leadership—editor-in-chief Andrew Hoskins in particular—and its partners at SAGE suggested: we would establish a collaborative relationship between the journal and the association, the journal would expand from four to six issues per year, all members of the association would have electronic access to the journal through the MSA's institutional subscription, and one issue a year would be edited by the association. This is the inaugural such issue.

The Memory Studies Association is a very new institution, begun informally in 2016 merely as a gathering of like-minded scholars who met in Amsterdam for a first “annual meeting” that established interest in, and desire for, a more permanent association. In the year that followed, all the formal accoutrements—not least incorporation as a legal entity—were established and were then celebrated in a much larger second meeting at the University of Copenhagen in December 2017, more than ably organized by Tea Sindbæk Andersen and Jessica Ortner. Since then, the MSA has continued to grow its membership and institutional structures with the help of a large and diverse international advisory board, the engaged efforts of a variety of partners, and the creativity and time commitment of a core of volunteers.

The excitement surrounding the consolidation of the MSA—and of the field more generally—is more than evident in the issue that follows. Edited by the Copenhagen conference organizers, the articles and discussions presented here both demonstrate and advance the unique contributions of memory studies scholarship. In particular, and quite intentionally, they show the field's range beyond the widely assumed connection between memory studies and trauma. Memory studies is a

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much larger and broader enterprise than that concerned with understanding the range of phenomena implied under the trauma rubric and their interactions. If memory studies seems preoccupied with trauma, this is a sign of the age in which it operates, not of its intellectual capabilities. There is both much to be discovered in the broad history of memory studies and much to look forward to in its vibrant future. Where Amsterdam and Copenhagen were the Association's formal start, this special issue, we hope, will be but the first of a long and productive collaboration.

### **Author biographies**

**Jeffrey K Olick** is William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Sociology and History and Chair of the Sociology Department at the University of Virginia (USA). His most recent book is *The Sins of the Fathers: Germany, Memory, Method* (University of Chicago Press, 2016).

**Aline Sierp** is assistant professor in European Studies at Maastricht University (NL). Before joining Maastricht University, Dr Sierp worked as researcher at the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site (DE). She is the author of *History, Memory and Transeuropean Identity: Unifying Divisions* (Routledge, 2014).

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